M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 381, 382	2286	Press / Mis.
Dated	26. 9.	1872.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 381. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Courtallum, 22nd August 1872, No. 2,380 :—

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of G. O., 5th August 1872, No. 1,839, and to express my unfeigned regret at the amount of censure with which my name is coupled therein.

2. It is necessary to premise by saying that the works devised in connection with the restoration of Tiroomala Naick's Palace at Madura originated with His Excellency Lord Napier of Merchistoun, and they were carried out by His Lordship's express desire by the Government Architect, independent of the Superintending Engineer of this division.

3. This course had been pursued for some time anterior to my taking charge of the division, and it was not becoming on my part, as I conceived, for me to cavil at the arrangement. As, however, considerable irregularities occurred in the submission of the accounts, I made a representation* to the Government on the subject, and they were pleased in reply to order, that so far as "the accounts" were concerned (I quote from memory) these were to be submitted monthly direct by the Overseer in charge of the works to the Range Officer.

* Letter No. 38-A, dated 3rd April 1871, printed with G. O., No. 1,151, dated 24th August 1871.

G. O., No. 1,021, dated 13th April 1871.

4. Nothing was said at that time, or has subsequently been communicated to me, to the effect that these works were under my control, and I have studiously avoided, therefore, giving any instructions in the matter except in such minor details, which, on account of Mr. Chisholm's expressed desire and my wish to assist him as much as possible, as also the great personal interest I feel in the undertaking, I considered to require immediate attention.

5. I may now add that it was not until the receipt of the G. O. under reply, that I have been informed that Lord Napier's "express instructions" were that the repairs of the Hall, HH of the lithographed plan, were to be "the first taken in hand." Be this as it may, I cannot myself see how I have disregarded "Mr. Chisholm's own opinion" in submitting, as I did, an estimate prepared in accordance with that gentleman's directions, and forwarded by me at his particular request, *vide* my letter printed with G. O., 15th June 1872, No. 1,487.

6. I am next censured for including the Overseer's salary in Mr. Chisholm's estimate of Rupees 7,250, "contrary to standing order of the department and other positive Government orders." The arrangement of including this Overseer's salary in the estimate has been in force ever since the commencement of the work; the arrangement was made in Madras, and I had nothing whatever to do with it. During Mr. Chisholm's absence on private leave, during which period he requested me to have an eye on the work, I submitted an application from Overseer G. Soobroyaloo Naidoo, soliciting that he might be brought on the permanent strength of the department. And in G. O., 26th June 1872, No. 1,701, it was

ordered that he should be brought on the strength of the establishment "on the occurrence of a vacancy either in the Madura or Tinnevelly District."

7. I then explained, see my letter printed with G. O., 9th August 1871, No. 2,050, that as G. Soobroyaloo Naidoo was specially qualified for the Palace work, it was not advisable that he should be removed therefrom, and I suggested that he should be declared as having been appointed Taluq Overseer, on the *seconded* list, from the 13th August 1870, the date on which Mr. Chisholm nominated him to the work.

8. This suggestion was not acceded to, and as Soobroyaloo Naidoo is drawing Rupees 100 per mensem in addition to horse allowance at Rupees 15 (the rate of pay promised him, as he assured me, before he left Madras,) he informed me that he was not desirous of relinquishing his present position for the duties of an Overseer on Rupees 60 per mensem. As I have already stated, his appointment was made in Madras, and if it was no longer approved it could have easily been cancelled. I am in no way responsible for it one way or the other.

9. In the G. O. under notice, I am ordered to bring the Naidoo on the permanent establishment of the 8th Division "from 1st May 1872," and in a subsequent G. O. (8th August 1872, No. 1,869,) that date is altered to the 1st April 1872, but I shall refer to this matter in a separate communication.

10. In regard to paragraph 4 of the G. O. under notice, I shall take immediate steps to place myself in communication with Mr. Chisholm in regard to the plans and estimates required.

11. As regards the Napier Gate, the amount promised by the Nattoocottay Chetties for the same has not yet been placed at my disposal by the Collector, nor has it, I believe, yet been paid up by those gentlemen.

No. 382. ORDER THEREON, 26th September 1872, No. 2,286.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 21.

THE Superintending Engineer's letter shows clearly that there has been a misconception on his part as to the intentions of Government, and the Governor in Council therefore relieves him of all blame in the matter. He has already been furnished with a copy of Lord Napier's Minute, he will now be furnished with a copy of Mr. Chisholm's letter recorded in the same Proceedings of Government.

2. The last paragraph of the Superintending Engineer's letter shows more clearly than ever how necessary it is that works designed by the Consulting Architect should be estimated for and carried out under precisely the same conditions as any other public buildings, namely under the supervision of the Superintending Engineer with the official cognizance and concurrence of the Collector and Heads of other departments concerned. Great confusion arose from disregard of the ordinary course of business in the construction of the Lawrence Asylum buildings

at Ootacamund; and it was with a view to obviate similar confusion with reference to the Palace at Madura that the G. O. under reference was issued.

3. Separate orders will be passed on the subject of Overseer Soobroyaloo Naidoo.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

From the Consulting Architect to Government, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 10th November 1871, No. 250.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the progress of the works and restorations being carried out at the old Palace of Teroomala Naick at Madura. My last report on this subject was dated the 11th March 1871.

2. *Vault at the west end of the court-yard.*—The method employed to tie in this vault and the removal of the broken portions, mentioned in my last report, have been quite successful; there is no sign of movement of any kind, and the work is sounder and probably more lasting than when first erected.

The exterior façade has been entirely completed with the exception of the stone bases to the columns, work now in active progress. The whole of the exterior of the vault has been re-plastered. The interior has been fine plastered, and moulded according to original models, and surface coloured almost equal in extent to the old colouring. The latter, when viewed at a proper distance, presents that peculiar " bloom" so characteristic of oriental colouring, and to my eye is as pleasing as any other system of polychromatic decoration with which I am acquainted. There is a peculiarity about this system of colouring worth mentioning; only the *crude* colours are employed, such as red, blue, yellow, orange, green, and black, but they are invariably laid on so as to balance and neutralize the general effect: in a row of leaves, for instance, primary and secondary tints will be used alternately, such as red and green. The effect, when seen at a distance, being a tertiary, or the same effect will be produced by colouring the leaves in triplets of red, yellow, and blue, but I know of no case where the primaries are first mixed and then laid on as a tertiary tint. If a richer effect is desired a primary will alternate with a primary, such as red and blue, resulting in the effect of purple. This system of colouring probably arose from the few pigments employed: indigo, green, and the ochres, raw and burnt; but from it arose a very peculiar and important effect, an artificial aerial perspective. All the colours near the eye are of the brightest, but quickly fade as they recede, until they resolve themselves into a general neutral bloom, which an artist would call " texture." The importance of such a system to describe vastness of space will readily be seen.

A small quantity of internal plaster work and moulding yet remains to be completed in the interior.

3. *New Municipal Office.*—The new offices for the Municipality have been completed, and will be ready for use as soon as the doors and windows have been fastened.

They have now the following rooms:—

1. Entrance Hall.
2. Board Room.
3. Clerks do.
4. Store do.

The Municipality have expressed their satisfaction in having obtained these offices, and it is their intention, I believe, to apply to me for designs for suitable furniture.

4. *New Court to the south-west.*—This room has been enclosed by an additional wall partially replastered, and will, I trust, be shortly in a condition to allow the Judge to move in.

5. *General remarks.*—As His Excellency the Governor only recently inspected the Palace works it would be superfluous for me to make any general descriptive remarks; I would beg leave, however, to place it on record that, in my opinion, no more money should be spent on decorative works until the whole structure is rendered safe and durable.

6. Only lately, during heavy rain, a large piece of masonry, nearly a ton in weight, fell from one of the side arcades, and several other portions are in a most critical condition; although little damage is done to the building by such accidents, they are calculated to shake the confidence of the public, who are not in a position to judge of the adequacy of the preservative measures employed. For this portion of the work a reliable estimate might be framed by the Department Public Works on my specifications.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

1

No 2380 Superintg Engineer's Office S.D.
Courtallum 22nd August 1872

From

Lieut: Colonel R. A. Roberts R.E.
Superintg Engineer 8th D.S.

To

Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government D.P.W.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G O, 5th August 1872, No 1839, and to express my unfeigned regret at the amount of censure with which my name is coupled therein.

2. It is necessary to premise by saying that the works devised in connection with the restoration of Tirumal Naick's Palace at Madura originated with His Excellency Lord Napier of Merchistoun, and they were carried out by His Lordship's express desire by the

Government Architect independent of the Superintending Engineer of this Division.

3. This course had been pursued for some time anterior to my taking charge of the Division, and it was not becoming on my part, as I conceived, for me to cavil at the arrangement. As, however, considerable irregularities occurred in the submission of the accounts, I made a representation[×] to the Government on the subject, and they were pleased in reply to order that so far as "the accounts" were concerned (I quote from memory) these were to be submitted monthly direct by the Overseer in charge of the works to the Range Officer.

× Letter No. 38 A dated 3rd April 1871, printed with G.O. No. 1157 dated 24th Sept 1871.

Manager to note [illegible]

G.O. No. 1021 dated 13th April 1871.

4. Nothing was said at that time, or has subsequently been com:municated to me, to the effect that

these works were under my control, and I have studiously avoided therefore giving any instructions in the matter except in such minor details which, on account of Mr. Chisholm's expressed desire and my wish to assist him as much as possible, as also the great personal interest I feel in the undertaking, I considered to require immediate attention.

5. I may now add that it was not until the receipt of the G.O. under reply that I have been informed that Lord Napier's "express instructions" were that the repairs of the Hall H H of the Lithographed Plan were to be "the first taken in hand". Be this as it may, I cannot myself see how I have disregarded "Mr Chisholm's own opinion" in submitting, as I did, an estimate prepared in accordance

with that gentleman's directions, and forwarded by me at his particular request. Vide my letter printed with G O 15th June 1872, No 487.

6. I am next censured for including the Overseer's salary in Mr Chisholm's estimate of Rupees 7,250, "contrary to standing order of the "Department and other positive "Government orders." The arrangement of including this Overseer's salary in the estimate has been in force ever since the commencement of the work; the arrangement was made in Madras, and I had nothing whatever to do with it. During Mr Chisholm's absence on private leave, during which period he requested me to have an eye on the work, I submitted an application from Overseer G. Soobrayaloo Naidoo, soliciting that he might be brought on the

permanent strength of the Department,
And in G O, 26 June 1872, No 1701,
it was ordered that he should be
brought on the strength of the Establish-
-ment" on the occurrence of a vacancy
"either in the Madura or Tinnevelly
"District."

7. I then explained, see my letter printed with G O 9th August 1871, No 2050, that as G Soobrayaloo Naidoo was specially qualified for the Palace work, it was not advisable that he should be removed therefrom, and I suggested that he should be declared as having been appointed Talook Overseer, on the Seconded List, from the 13th August 1870, the date on which Mr Chisholm nominated him to the work.

8. This suggestion was not acceded to, and as Soobrayaloo Naidoo is drawing Rupees 100 per mensem in

addition to Horse Allowance at Rupees 15 (the rate of pay promised him, as he assured me, before he left Madras) he informed me that he was not desirous of relinquishing his present position for the duties of an Overseer on Rupees 60 per mensem. As I have already stated his appointment was made in Madras, and if it was no longer approved, it could have easily been cancelled. I am in no way responsible for it one way or the other.

9. In the G.O. under notice I am ordered to bring the Naidoo on the permanent establishment of the 8th Division "from 1st May 1872", and in a ~~subsequent~~ subsequent G.O (8th August 1872, No 1869) that date is altered to the 1st April 1872, but I shall refer to this matter in a separate communication.

10. In regard to para 4 of the G.O. under notice, I shall take

13c 4

immediate steps to place myself in communication with Mr. Chisholm in regard to the plans and estimates required.

11. As regards the Napier Gate the amount promised by the Nattoocottay Chetties for the same has not yet been placed at my disposal by the Collector, nor has it, I believe, yet been paid up by those Gentlemen.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your Most Obt. Servant
Ricd. A. Roberts Lieut. Coll. R.E.
Superintg. Engineer 8 Dn.

P. W. 18/72 Depart.
Pro. of Govt. for September
From No. 4197.
The Superintending Engineer
8th Dn.

To
The Secretary to Govt.
P. W. D.

Dated 2nd August /72
Despatched 26th Do.
Received 29 Do.

Submits his Explanation regarding the remarks made in G. O. No. 1839 dated 5th August /72 in connection with the restoration of Tiroomal Naick's Palace at Madura

No. 2286 - 26th Sept/72

No 381

Sent to Coll 29 Augt/72

X5C

Return the papers Stent belonging to this [illegible]

The Superintending Engineer's letter shows clearly that there has been a misconception on his part as to the intention of Govern-ment and the Governor in Council therefore relieves him of all blame in the matter. He has already been furnished with

a copy of Lord Napier's Minute, he will now be furnished with a copy of Mr. Chisholm's letter recorded in the same proceedings of Government.

2. The last para of the Supg Engineer's letter shows more clearly than ever how necessary it is that works designed by the Consulting Architect should be estimated for and carried out under precisely the same

190

conditions as any other
Public Buildings, viz;
under the supervision
of the Supt Engineer
with the official cog-
-nizance and con-
-currence of the Col-
-lector and heads of
other Departments
concerned. Great
confusion arose from
disregard of the ordinary
course of business
in the construction
of the Lawrence Asylum
Buildings at Ootacamund;
and it was with a view
to obviate similar
confusion with

reference to the Palace at Madura, that the G. O. under reference was issued.

Separate orders will be passed on the subject of Overseer Soobroyaloo Naidoo.

Terumal Naik's Palace

8

passed

Rewritten as directed

26 Sept 1839 2280
5 Aug

Public Works Deptt. 5

No. 2280. 19c

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

From the Supdg. Engr. of the 8th Division } H.C. No 2380 d/ 22d Augt /72

I understand Col Roberts letter to be really an effort to relieve himself from censures conveyed in the last G.O. There has evidently been several misconceptions not intentional default. I would not send him the C. E's memo: as here proposed - I would say 1. "The Supt. Engr's letter shows clearly that there has been a misconception on his part as to the intentions of Govt. and the Govt. therefore relieves him of all blame in the matter. He has already been furnished

The Superintending Engineer will be furnished with a copy of the Chief Engineer's Memo: on which Government order No. 1839 of 5th August was based. In it he will find noted the papers containing Lord Napier's instructions and Mr. Chisholm's

opinion referred to; the latter of which will now be printed for record and reference.

2. The last para of the Supd Engineer's letter shows more clearly than ever how necessary it is that works designed by the Consulting Architect should be estimated for and carried out under precisely the same conditions as any other Public Buildings, viz, under the supervision of the

with a copy of Lord Napier's Minute, he will now be furnished with a copy of Mr. Fleischer's letter recorded in the same Pro: of Date.—"

Amend these p. on in the same 2 of the draft.

[illegible]

[illegible]

21c 6

Supt Engineer with
the official cognizance
and concurrence of the
Collector and heads
of other Departments
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at Madura, that the G.O. under reference was issued.

Separate orders will be passed on the subject of Overseer Soobroyaloo Naidoo.

GWW

Cir - 11th Sep

Circulate

Memo. 11 J. Arbuthnot

To

S. E. 8th Dn. with printed Copies of Mr. Chisholm's letter

Consg. Architect

Despd. 3/10/72

× 25/11/72

C/o 4197

Govt. of (1872) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The Superintending Engineer
8th Division

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 26th Sept. 1872. No. 2286.

Nos. 381 & 382

Teroomala Naik's Palace at Madura. Passing orders on letter from the Supdg. Engr. of the 8th Dn. offering explanations with reference to G. O. No 1839 of 1872 regarding the restoration of Teroomala Naik's Palace.